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### News Release - 1979-06-29

E. De la Garza

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# news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FRIDAY, June 29, 1979

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Kika de la Garza is joining an effort to contact the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission this week urging that agency to end some regulatory restrictions on the trucking industry to benefit truckers, shippers and ultimately consumers too.

De la Garza said, "The strike by independent truckers is costing the nation millions of dollars every day. Perishable crops are rotting in the field, shipments of foods are being lost every day the strike continues and many other commodities are not reaching market.

"South Texas is particularly hard hit, and many of our farmers are becoming desperate. Shortages in the marketplace will occur with more and more frequency. If the strike continues all Americans will soon feel the pinch.

"The independent truckers have some legitimate problems, and the government is part of the reason for their plight. The federal government cannot solve all the problems of the independent truckers, but there is no reason the government cannot take some positive action to bring an end to this major national problem now reaching crisis proportion.

"The effort seeks to eliminate empty backhaul requirements and other restrictions which tell truckers where they can go, what they can carry, and whom they can carry it for. These restrictions create empty mileage, idle equipment and needless interchanges.

"By taking this action, the ICC will eliminate the waste of scarce fuel supplies on an empty return trip and allow a trucker to recover some of his rapidly increasing costs. The elimination of other restrictions will have the same beneficial effect. We will all benefit".

Rep. de la Garza said he was urging immediate action on his proposal.

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